

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07630 091031Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6458
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 07630

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PBOR JO IS US EG
SUBJECT: SADAT'S PAPER ON WEST BANK/GAZA

REF: TEL AVIV 3113

1. I AM NOT REALLY AS SURPRISED AS AMBASSADOR LEWIS IS ABOUT EGYPTIAN PAPER ON WEST BANK/GAZA. WE GOT WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED. THE PAPER WAS DRAFTED HURRIEDLY AND DOES REFLECT STRONGLY HELD VIEWS OF FONMIN KAMEL, MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI AND OTHER SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS. SADAT READ IT FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING ROY ATHERTON'S MEETING WITH HIM JUST BEFORE IT WAS TURNED OVER. AS ROY HAS DOUBTLESS REPORTED, SADAT MADE TWO ADDITIONAL ORAL POINTS, ALTHOUGH NEITHER TOUCHED ON WHAT HE HAS SOMETIMES SAID PUBLICLY THAT A "SELF-RULE" CONCEPT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IF THERE IS SOME ASSURANCE THAT IT WILL EVOLVE DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD SO THAT SOME KIND OF LIMITED SELF-DETERMINATION CAN TAKE PLACE AT THE END.

2. WE HAVE TO BEAR IN MIND THAT EGYPTIANS WERE NOT KEEN ON PREPARING SUCH PAPER AND DID SO ONLY AFTER OUR PERSISTENT URGINGS. THEY REMAIN CONCERNED THAT GOE HAS NO MANDATE TO SPEAK FOR PALESTINIANS AND CERTAINLY NOT THOSE

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IN WEST BANK. (PAST EGYPTIAN CONNECTION WITH GAZA MAKES THEM A BIT MORE WILLING TO ADDRESS THAT AREA.) NOR DO THEY HAVE KING HUSSEIN'S VIEWS AND ARE THEREFORE UNEASY ABOUT SAYING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE AT VARIANCE WITH HIS PERTINENT THINKING. THEY ARE DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT SADAT HAS STUCK HIS NECK OUT FAR, HAS LITTLE TO SHOW FOR IT IN TERMS OF ISRAELI CONCESSIONS AND ARE

THEREFORE NOT ANXIOUS TO EXPOSE SADAT AND EGYPT TO ANY FURTHER PILLORYING FROM ARAB CRITICS. THEY ARE EQUALLY CONSCIOUS THAT EVEN THE SAUDIS WOULD TAKE A DIM VIEW IF SADAT APPEARED TO BE MAKING CONCESSIONS IN WEST BANK. HENCE, THEIR CUATION WHICH TRANSLATES INTO THE TYPE OF PAPER WE HAVE RECEIVED.

3. NOR, DESPITE THEIR REQUEST THAT THE PAPER IS ONLY FOR US, ARE THEY ENTIRELY SURE THAT IT OR THE IDEAS THEY PUT INTO A PAPER ON THE SUBJECT WILL NOT SOMEHOW GET TO THE ISRAELIS AND SUBSEQUENTLY BE MADE PUBLIC IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY PRIMIN BEGIN AND HIS COLLEAGUES. I THINK WE ARE AGREED THAT THIS KIND OF THING HAS BEEN KNOWN TO HAPPEN WITH THE ISRAELIS. THUS THE EGYPTIANS PLAYED IT SAFE. I SHARE ROY ATHERTON'S VIEW THAT WE SHOULD NOT ATTACH TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THIS PAPER AND REITERATE THAT WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT MORE AT THIS UNCERTAIN STAGE OF THE GAME.
EILTS

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